



Tool Box Talk

Focus on Performance

Wastage

Sust. 10

What?

Envirowise have calculated that the true cost of waste is approximately 10 times the cost of disposal. This includes the cost of wasted resources, labour, transport and disposal costs. Every year over £1.5 billion worth of construction materials are purchased as wastage allowances nationally.

Why?

The most efficient approach with lowest environmental impacts to waste management is to avoid generating the waste in the first place. Avoiding wastage due to over-ordering or poor on-site storage removes the environmental impacts associated with manufacture, transport and disposal of products, as well as reducing costs.

How?

Ordering and deliveries:

- Use standard sizes and quantities of materials, and plan ahead to reduce off-cuts.
- Avoid over-ordering.
- Nominate a single person who is responsible for ordering materials to avoid surplus.
- Arrange deliveries to match work stages, to avoid materials being stored on site longer than necessary.
- Don't accept poor quality or damaged deliveries. Arrange for take-back and replacement.
- Consider packaging type when ordering (e.g. plastic cement bags rather than paper; bagged sand rather than loose).

Storage and use:

- Ensure you review how materials will be stored to protect them from the elements and damage.
 - Ensure storage areas are safe, secure and weatherproof.
 - Ensure storage areas are located away from transport routes.
 - Consider locked containers or compounds if there is a risk of damage or theft by third parties.
- Don't remove protective packaging from materials before they are needed.
- Use open bags or containers prior to opening new ones.
- Take only materials needed to the work area; leave un-needed materials in the storage area.



Questions

1. What costs other than disposal costs are associated with wastage?
2. What should you do if you receive damaged supplies?
3. Where should storage areas be located?

If you have any queries regarding the content of this tool box talk please contact your Sustainability Advisor or Line Manager.